



Arohanui Strings

Arohanui Strings is a registered charity whose mission is to create social change through the power of music. Hailing from Lower Hutt, Wellington, they are part of a visionary global movement of Sistema-inspired education – a musical training model that empowers children to overcome the disadvantages of poverty and inequality through musical inclusion.

Through Sistema teaching, children play in an orchestral environment right from the outset, rather than practicing a musical instrument alone. They also learn in groups playing the violin, viola, cello and the double bass, and as soon as a child can play a piece they can teach it to another child.



This year, they taught around 300 children - a slightly reduced number due to COVID-19. However, the pandemic didn't stop the fun with classes moving onto Zoom, including one-on-one scholarship lessons with musicians from the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and Orchestra Wellington.

“2021 has been a challenging year for everyone, but the tamariki's resilience and adaptability has been amazing – teaching even the teachers a thing or two about keeping calm and carrying on!”

While COVID-19 did reduce the opportunities to perform in public, Arohanui Strings' biggest event was May's Symphony in the Hutt, where 70 of their students played alongside Orchestra Wellington.

The commanding programme included an excerpt from the Brandenburg Concerto #3 by JS Bach, an Irish fiddle tune, a waiata, and a new composition by this year's SOUNZ commission winner written specially for Arohanui Strings to play with Orchestra Wellington.



Each year, Arohanui Strings offer free music lessons to hundreds of children from primary, intermediate and secondary schools in the Wellington region.

Children who are often unable to learn a classical instrument, due to economic and social barriers, are actively invited to learn from and play alongside



Another highlight for Arohanui Strings was being filmed for the Prime Minister’s Education Excellence Awards earlier this year, where the group’s Korimako Orchestra played a snippet of Dvorak’s “New World” Symphony.

“It was a total treat and Arohanui Strings was beyond delighted to be asked to show New Zealand just what our tamariki can do in the world of classical music if given a chance”.

Having operated for eleven years, Arohanui Strings continues to grow from strength to strength, with the help from student assistants, parent helpers, and other professional volunteers. This year, they even started a parents’ violin group.

“Having parents understand music is invaluable to promoting and inspiring their tamariki as they continue to learn music and progress as musicians”.

To find out more about Arohanui Strings, find them on the [Charities Register](#) (CC47962) and visit their [Facebook page](#).